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18 March 1952

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

FROM : Assistant Director for National Estimates

SUBJECT: A Project to Provide a More Adequate Basis for
Planning for the Security of the United States

PROBLEM

1. To organize an ~~ad hoc~~ committee and a working group to draft subject report for the Director of Central Intelligence in compliance with NSC Action 543.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

2. On 30 August 1951 the Executive Secretary, NSC, circulated an NSC Directive which directed certain officials and agencies to produce studies which would provide a more adequate basis for planning for the security of the United States. In compliance with that directive the following actions have been completed:

- a. DCI as chairman of the IAC produced SE-14, "Soviet Capabilities for a Military Attack on the United States before July 1952," dated 23 October 1951.
- b. The Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference (IIC) produced an "Estimate of the Capability of the USSR to Conduct Sabotage and Otherwise Disrupt Internal United States Activities," dated 10 October 1951.
- c. At the request of O/NE, O/SO prepared a report supplementing the report of the IIC. The O/SO contribution was transmitted to O/NE on 14 January 1952.

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3. In compliance with the NSC Directive the following actions have been undertaken but not completed:

- A. The JCS (in collaboration with the FCDA) undertook to have by 19 January, an evaluation of US military capability to counter potential enemy capabilities and an estimate of the probable damage to the United States resulting from an enemy attack. This study is now before the JCS. Its delivery date to DCI is uncertain.
- B. The Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security (in collaboration with the FCDA), undertook to have by 19 January, an evaluation of ways and means available to counter potential enemy capabilities and an estimate of the probable damage to the US resulting from enemy action. The delivery date of this study to DCI is uncertain.

4. The following action is required of the DCI upon the completion and receipt of the reports of the JCS and the ICIS: to prepare, in collaboration with the JCS, the IIC, and the ICIS, a summary evaluation of the net capability of the USSR to injure the US.

5. The basic directive called for the completion of this evaluation "as soon as possible." The Record of Meeting of the Senior NSC Staff (13 March) calls for reappraisal of policies set forth in NSC 68 and 114 Series (basis of the directive) by the Senior Staff not later than 1 April and by the Council not later than 16 April.

6. DCI requested General Partridge on behalf of the JCS to recommend a procedure for preparing the summary evaluation (IAC-44, Item 5). The JCS proposal (IAC-D-29/5) was noted by the IAC on 11 October (IAC-44-48, Item 2).

7. To the knowledge of this office, the ad hoc committee proposed by the JCS (composed of at least one official from JCS, ICIS, IIC, and IAC) has not yet been formed. Nor have any alternative arrangements to deal with the problem been made. Furthermore, the requirement of the DCI for staff work in the preparation of this evaluation has not been assigned.

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CONCLUSION

8. In view of the delay in the receipt of the studies in preparation by the JCS and the ICIS, the DCI cannot prepare the final summary evaluation called for by NSC Action 543 by 1 April.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. That the DCI note the Conclusion.
10. That the ad hoc committee for the preparation of the final evaluation be constituted.
11. That some office (presumably O/NE) be directed to assume responsibility for providing staff support to the DCI and the ad hoc committee on this project.

D/Asst. Director/Adm.
National Estimates

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CONCUR:

Deputy Director/Intelligence

ACTION BY APPROVING AUTHORITY:

Date _____

Approved (disapproved)

Director of Central Intelligence

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